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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Letter dated 23 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the current Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth ministerial meeting, which was held in Bujumbura from 1 to 5 December 2014, together with two annexes:

– The Bujumbura Declaration on the threat to peace, security and stability in Central Africa posed by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram;

– The list of participants in the meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 97 (h) on the agenda of the sixty-ninth session), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the Thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

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Introduction

1. The thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Bujumbura from 1 to 5 December 2014.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

3. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) served as the Committee secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA.

4. The following United Nations entities took part in the proceedings as observers: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

5. Representatives of the following organizations also participated as observers: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), African Union and United Nations regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa.

6. The meeting of experts opened with a ceremony that included statements by representatives of the outgoing Chair (Equatorial Guinea) and the incoming Chair (Burundi).

7. The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting also featured:

- A statement by the outgoing Chair of the Bureau, M. Narciso Ntugu Abeso Oyana;
- A statement by the representative of the African Union, Ambassador Bouboucar Gaoussou Diarra;
- A statement by the Burundian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Laurent Kavakuré;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read out by his Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily;
- A presentation by Professor Wullson Mvomo Ela on the threat of terrorism in the subregion.

I. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Bureau.

3. Report of the outgoing Bureau.

4. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting.

5. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Africa.

6. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa.

7. Maritime piracy and security.

8. Combating armed groups in Central Africa.

9. Thematic discussion on threats to peace and security in Central Africa: the case of Boko Haram.

10. Poaching in Central Africa.

11. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee.

12. Report by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of strategic partnerships.

13. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

14. Climate change.

15. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by the member States.

16. Place and date of the next meeting.

17. Other matters.

18. Adoption of the report of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting.

II. Election of the Bureau

9. Burundi was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee by acclamation.

10. The Committee also elected the following member States:

- First Vice-Chair: Angola
- Second Vice-Chair: Gabon
- Rapporteur: Central African Republic

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau

11. The outgoing Chair briefed the Committee on the activities carried out since its thirty-eighth meeting, held in Malabo from 29 July to 2 August 2014.

12. Recalling the short period between the thirty-eighth meeting of the Advisory Committee and the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, he reported to the

Committee on the work he had carried out during his tenure, in collaboration with the Committee secretariat in Libreville.

13. In accordance with the recommendations of the thirty-eighth meeting, Equatorial Guinea had added to the agenda of the thirty-ninth meeting an item on armed groups in the subregion other than the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

14. On 28 October 2014, Equatorial Guinea had had the opportunity to introduce, with the cooperation of the Committee secretariat, a draft resolution entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa" (A/C.1/69/L.58). The General Assembly's First Committee had adopted the draft resolution by consensus, and the General Assembly was expected to adopt it before the end of the current session in December.

15. The outgoing Chair had also carried out preparatory work for the discussions to be held at future Committee meetings on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

16. Equatorial Guinea had made further efforts towards the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

17. Lastly, the Chair reminded the Committee of the difficulties encountered by member States in implementing the recommendations of the thirty-eighth meeting, as well as the importance of their implementation. Many of the recommendations adopted at the thirty-eighth meeting would be carried forward.

Recommendations

18. The Committee recommended that the secretariat should work closely with the incoming Chair throughout the period leading up to the next ministerial meeting.

19. The Committee further requested the secretariat and the incoming Chair to remind the member States in writing of their commitments regarding the implementation of the recommendations made at the preceding meeting.

IV. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting

20. The Committee decided that the following recommendations, made at its thirty-eighth meeting, should be carried forward:

(a) Workshops should be held at future Committee meetings to enhance understanding of the adaptation and harmonization of member States' national legislation on all forms of crime affecting the subregion;

(b) The Committee secretariat should make the geopolitical review prepared by ECCAS available to the member States at least two weeks in advance of the ministerial meetings in order to collect comments from the member States;

(c) Member States that had not yet done so should ratify the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention);

(d) Further discussions should be held on all armed groups operating in the subregion, including LRA;

(e) The implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) should be discussed at future meetings;;

(f) Member States signatories that had not yet done so should provide funding for the activities of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), in the amounts approved by the Council of Ministers of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX);

(g) Member States should pursue their efforts for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. States were also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the recommendations made at the workshop on women's participation in politics and elections in Central Africa. The workshop had been organized jointly by ECCAS and UNOCA, with the participation of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Organization of la Francophonie, from 21 to 23 October 2014 in Douala, Cameroon. In addition to the specific recommendations made by participants (members of legislative bodies and of civil society) and directed in particular to member States and international organizations, a Central African women's platform for the promotion of political participation had been established.

21. The ECCAS Secretariat presented two reports that it had prepared, described below.

Report on the status of the subregional strategy to combat drugs and other psychotropic substances

22. After giving a detailed description of the problems posed by drug trafficking in the subregion, and on the basis of data collected by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the ECCAS general Secretariat presented the action plans of the African Union Commission. The Commission had adopted two action plans (2007-2012 and 2013-2017) aimed at strengthening international cooperation to support regional and national efforts to combat drug trafficking.

23. The ECCAS Secretariat sought to establish, as soon as possible, a formal mechanism for coordinating and implementing the action plans, based on existing national structures such as the technical subcommittee of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs, a specialized agency of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community that also included the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, in collaboration with the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Central Africa and the World Customs Organization liaison office for Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, based in Cameroon.

24. The ECCAS Secretariat also presented projects with which several countries of the subregion were involved within the INTERPOL Regional Bureau, such as the Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) establishing a communication network among African airports and the COCAIR anti-drug operation in Central and West Africa.

Report on practical means of reforming and strengthening the electoral process in Central Africa

25. The ECCAS Secretariat reported on the institution's activities in that regard, in particular the deployment of observers to monitor voting processes, capacity-building for member States' electoral administrations and advocacy of the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

26. Between 2009 and 2014, ECCAS had undertaken a number of observation missions, each of them being followed within three months by a final report to the authorities of the States in question. Those reports, which contained recommendations, highlighted the progress made in comparison to prior missions, without, however, neglecting to point out any deficiencies or shortcomings in need of correction.

27. The Secretariat also advised the Committee that since 2013, with the cooperation of the European Union through its peace and security support project, the ECCAS Electoral Support Unit had held training workshops and seminars for electoral administrations, judicial authorities with jurisdiction to investigate electoral disputes, security forces, civil society organizations and the media. The Unit had also supported and participated in African Union Commission initiatives undertaken in partnership with regional economic communities.

V. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Africa

28. The ECCAS Secretariat presented a review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa in a new format.

29. The Secretariat then gave an overview of the activities that were threatening peace and stability in the subregion.

30. On that last point, the ECCAS Secretariat presented a detailed report on the group Boko Haram and its adverse impact on of Cameroon and Chad in the areas of security, the economy (loss of customs revenues) and the humanitarian situation (large numbers of refugees). The Committee was reminded of the real risk that those terrorist groups could join forces and operate in collusion with other extremist religious groups in the Sahel-Saharan region.

31. The Secretariat then shared with the Committee an in-depth study on the crisis in the Central African Republic, and concluded on a hopeful note by referring to a number of positive developments, such as the establishment of an international mediation process, the convening in July 2014 of the Brazzaville forum for national reconciliation and Central African political dialogue, the communiqué on the meeting of Heads of State held on the sidelines of the 26 September 2014 meeting of the General Assembly, and the recent holding of a symposium at the International School for Security Forces, based in Yaoundé, on achieving peace and security in the Central African Republic.

32. Following that presentation, the delegations described the geopolitical and security situation in their respective countries.

Angola

The delegation of Angola reported that the political and security situation was stable.

33. Up-to-date data on the Angolan population had been collected through the population and housing census conducted in May 2014. The census showed, too, that women made up 54 per cent of the total population.

34. With regard to security, since March 2008, the Angolan authorities had been implementing a civilian disarmament process through which 91,028 weapons had been recovered, including 86,068 that had been voluntarily surrendered. That process had resulted in the destruction of 63,698 weapons, 2,945 magazines, 60,093 pieces of ammunition and 96,641 explosives.

35. On 31 October 2014, the National Commission for Civilian Disarmament, together with the non-governmental organization HALO Trust, had carried out a symbolic destruction of the recovered firearms as a way of expressing support for the preservation of national and global peace and security; the act had been attended by various partners. The disarmament campaign "If you are conscientious, disarm your mind" was still under way.

36. The delegation announced the creation of a new legal regime for private security companies which made such companies subject to a more effective monitoring mechanism and recognized them as a supplementary source of law enforcement and public security.

37. Within the framework of its commitments to ECCAS, in October 2014 Angola had participated in an exercise organized by the Central African Multinational Force called "Loango 2014".

38. In that regard, the Angolan police force and the police and gendarmerie of the Congo had participated in "VIP Day", a policing demonstration.

39. In the political arena, the Angolan authorities continued to work with other countries in the region to find ways to settle disputes in the subregion.

40. Angola was grateful to all the member States that had supported its candidature for non-permanent membership of the Security Council.

Burundi

41. The delegation of Burundi informed participants that general and presidential elections would be held in 2015 and that a number of arrangements had already been made by the Government in that regard. Working closely with the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), the Government of Burundi had developed a 42-point road map aimed at fostering the conditions for peaceful elections. Three assessments of the road map had already been conducted.

42. A new electoral code had been adopted by all stakeholders in the electoral process. A 13-point code of conduct had also been adopted in June 2014. The code recognized the right of political parties, political coalitions and independent candidates to freely conduct their political activities during the electoral campaign throughout the country while respecting the laws in force. It also prohibited the use of violence.

43. The delegation also provided information to participants on:

(a) The upcoming arrival of a United Nations electoral observation mission under the agreement between the United Nations and the Government. The Secretary-General had already appointed the Head of the mission and his deputy;

(b) The end of the mandate of BNUB and the transfer of its responsibilities to a United Nations country team pursuant to Security Council resolution 2137 (2014) of 13 February 2014;

(c) The adoption of the law establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for under the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi; and the selection and confirmation of commissioners by both houses of the Parliament of Burundi had been completed on 3 December 2014;

(d) The promulgation of the communal law in November 2014.

44. The delegation of Burundi described the overall security situation as stable, despite reports of cases of banditry. To address that situation, beginning in February 2014, joint security committees, comprising all sectors of the Government, the public and civil society, had been established in all of the country's administrative divisions.

45. With respect to activities at the international level, the delegation drew attention to the participation of Burundian troops in peacekeeping operations such as those in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Somalia, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

46. The number of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo had increased to about 47,000, while the number of asylum-seekers stood at 9,100; the country continued to receive some 50 new refugees every week.

47. On the economic front, the assessment of the October 2012 Burundi donors' conference was under way. In that regard, a round-table discussion among Burundi's partners was to be held in Bujumbura on 11 and 12 December 2014, the ultimate goal being to determine partners' level of contributions and further steps to be taken.

48. Other achievements of the Government of Burundi, in particular with respect to the inclusion of women in decision-making bodies, had been communicated to the Committee at previous meetings.

Congo

49. The reporting period had been marked by the holding of local and senatorial elections on 28 September and 12 October 2014, respectively.

50. The organization of elections in the Congo was governed by the Electoral Act (Act No. 9-2001 of 10 December 2001), as amended and supplemented by Act No. 5-2007 of 25 May 2007, Act No. 9-2012 of 23 May 2012 and Act No. 40-2014 of 1 September 2014, the last of which strengthened the role of the National Elections Commission, which had been made a permanent body with management autonomy, and increased the quota for women from 20 to 30 per cent.

51. The elections had resulted in a turnover in the membership of the departmental councils. Of the 860 seats up for election, the ruling party (Parti Congolais du Travail) had won 356, followed by the main opposition party (Union Panafricaine

pour la Démocratie Sociale), which had won 51. The large number of seats (199) won by independent candidates was noteworthy.

52. As a result of the senatorial elections held in 8 of the country's 12 departments, new members accounted for one third of the membership of the upper house. The Parti congolais du travail had come first, with 29 of the 36 senatorial seats.

53. The elections had been held under peaceful conditions, in the light of the series of political consultations between the Government, political parties and civil society, held in Brazzaville in 2009, in Ewo in 2011 and in Dolisie in 2013.

54. With respect to the revision or amendment of the Constitution, the Parti congolais du travail, at the extraordinary session of its Political Bureau held in Brazzaville on 8 and 9 November 2014, had established a commission responsible for developing a proposal to submit to its Central Committee.

55. The opposition parties as a whole were in favour of maintaining the current text of the Constitution, including the articles on term and age limits. The centrist parties, which had formed a coalition called the Collectif des parties du centre, advocated the holding of a national dialogue with a view to reaching consensus on the matter.

56. With respect to the security situation, the focus had been on the resolution of border disputes between the Congo and its neighbours, including Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon.

57. In that regard, the eighth meeting of the Tripartite Security Commission, which brought together Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congo, had been held in Pointe-Noire on 1 and 2 August 2014. The meeting had resulted in the relaunching of the Commission and the reinstatement of its specialized subcommissions.

58. Concerning the Congo's relations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Heads of State of both countries had met in Kinshasa on 19 September 2014 in order to strengthen the long-standing ties of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In addition, their experts on the Defence and Security Commission had met in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 September 2014 to discuss practical arrangements for the resumption of cross-border trade; propose modalities for bilateral cooperation to fight urban crime in major cities; and establish a joint commission to investigate allegations of human rights violations in the expulsion of nationals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the Congo.

59. In relation to the Government's efforts to fight cross-border crime, the fifteenth meeting of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs had been held in Pointe-Noire from 13 to 17 October 2014. The meeting had provided an opportunity for experts to discuss cross-border crime, with a view to developing a common strategy to combat that scourge.

60. The Congo had had the honour of hosting the ECCAS multinational and multidimensional exercise "Loango 2014". The exercise had been held in Pointe-Noire from 10 to 29 October 2014 and had been very successful.

61. During the exercise, on 20 October 2014, the headquarters of CRESMAC, based in Pointe-Noire, had been officially handed over to ECCAS. The Congo and ECCAS had also signed the headquarters agreement at that event.

62. Lastly, the Congo continued to offer assistance to the refugees residing in its territory. As at 30 September 2014, the countries of origin and numbers of refugees in the Congo were as follows:

– Democratic Republic of the Congo:	23,244
– Central African Republic:	19,010
– Rwanda:	9,057
– Angola: v	456

63. During the reporting period, no meetings had been held on issues relating to the management of refugees, either at the bilateral level or within the framework of tripartite meetings involving the countries of origin, the host countries and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Gabon

64. The delegation of Gabon noted that, since the last ministerial meeting, the peace and stability that characterized the country had remained unchanged.

65. Senatorial elections would be held on 13 December 2014; all the political parties involved, of both the majority and the opposition, would participate actively. The political debates in preparation for the presidential election in 2016 had already begun.

66. With regard to social issues, the delegation confirmed that the strategic programme "Gabon Rising" was being implemented, including the economic and social phases aimed at reducing poverty, extending medical coverage to all Gabonese people through the *Caisse nationale d'assurance maladie et de garantie sociale*, funding income-generating activities, providing broader support for low-income households, extending the performance incentive bonus to all civil servants and the military, and continuing the construction of major road and hospital infrastructure.

67. There had also been social tensions, including strikes by teachers and health professionals demanding payment of the performance incentive bonus and making other strictly employment-related claims. However, following the launch of a broad dialogue with all trade unions by the President of the Republic and the Government, the climate had become calmer and the demands had ceased. After the performance incentive bonus had been paid, a process had been launched to establish a platform for dialogue between the Government and the trade unions.

68. The delegation communicated information on urban insecurity and inflows of illegal immigrants, which the authorities were working to counter.

69. Lastly, Gabon had had the honour of participating in the ECCAS exercise "Loango 2014", held in Pointe-Noire from 10 to 29 October 2014.

Equatorial Guinea

70. The stability prevailing in Equatorial Guinea had made the country a preferred location for major international meetings of ECCAS, the African Union and the United Nations; that status had gained it the admiration of the international community. Equatorial Guinea had been pleased to host the Africa-Turkey Summit and would be welcoming the Africa Cup of Nations in the coming weeks. In addition, the country's steady economic growth would definitely prompt the General Assembly to remove it from the list of least developed countries.

71. With regard to security, Equatorial Guinea had contributed to the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and, together with other countries of the subregion, had participated in the "Loango 2014" exercise, which had been a complete success. Although there had been isolated incidents of banditry, particularly in Malabo and Bata, the domestic and cross-border situation remained stable.

72. Equatorial Guinea had decided to postpone the implementation of the policy of freedom of movement throughout the Central African Economic and Monetary Community zone, as some elements of the consensual road map, which was necessary for carrying out the decision adopted by the Heads of State in Libreville on 14 June 2013, were not yet in place.

73. In that connection, Equatorial Guinea continued to face enormous difficulties in managing the flow of migrants from countries not belonging to the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and from ECCAS non-member countries, and the authorities had been forced to adopt strict measures aimed at repatriating illegal immigrants.

74. On the political front, several articles of the Constitution had recently been amended. The amendments limited the number of presidential terms to two, established a bicameral Parliament and created new State organs, including the Senate, the State Council, the Ombudsman, the Court of Auditors and the Economic and Social Council.

75. Prior to the national consultations that had been held from 7 to 15 November 2014 between the Government and the political parties, including those representing the diaspora, on 21 October 2014 the President had issued a decree granting complete amnesty in Equatorial Guinea to all persons convicted of or being prosecuted for political offences.

Central African Republic

76. The delegation of the Central African Republic reported that, in October 2014, there had been an unexpected resumption of violence and several actors had violated the agreement on the cessation of hostilities. The country therefore faced a fragile security situation. A more sustained response from the international community was needed, although the intervention of international forces and the arrival of the representative of the international mediator in Bangui had contributed to a gradual return to calm in the country.

77. The delegation reiterated the commitment of the transitional authorities, supported by the international community, to establish a political dialogue by appointing members of the transitional Government by prefecture, thus paving the way for genuine dialogue at the provincial level.

78. At its sixth meeting, held in Bangui on 11 November 2014, the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic had assessed the crisis and had recommended, inter alia, that a reconciliation dialogue should be held in early 2015 and that the elections, which would be the final stage in the transition, should be postponed; they were currently scheduled for July 2015.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

79. Since the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting, the situation in the country had remained generally calm, despite a climate of palpable internal political tension regarding two issues: rumours that the Constitution was to be revised, which had not yet been borne out by government action to table an ad hoc bill in the Parliament or through endorsement by the President in public statements; and the eagerly awaited advent of the Government of national unity, which had been announced on 23 October 2013 by the Head of State following national consultations.

80. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had endured a new wave of violence, characterized by the widespread slaughter of civilians in the villages around Beni (North Kivu). The armed forces and services of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) had been tracking the situation closely to prepare an appropriate response, but were also recommending that the new threat should be addressed by the Central African Early Warning Mechanism.

81. The delegation gave an account of the security situation, noting that the military victory of FARDC over the former 23 March Movement (M23) rebels in early November 2013 had raised hopes for lasting peace among the long-suffering people in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The political process involving the implementation of the commitments made by the Government and the former M23 combatants, signed in Nairobi on 23 December 2013, was making progress towards resolving all the problems in that area.

82. Lastly, the delegation informed the Committee about the ever-increasing influx of Mbororo nomadic herders from the Sahel region. Their numbers were estimated at approximately 60,000; they were sometimes heavily armed and accompanied by their large herd of 100,000 cattle, camels and horses. Among those nomads were thousands of Libyans who engaged in poaching.

Recommendation

83. The Democratic Republic of the Congo recommended that the new wave of violence that had struck the Beni region should be brought to the attention of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism.

Rwanda

84. The delegation of Rwanda reported that the overall situation had been stable and that institutions had functioned normally since the previous Ministerial meeting.

85. The domestic political situation was calm. However, BBC broadcasts (in Kinyarwanda) had been stopped after a documentary on genocide denial had been aired. A commission had been established and had begun to hold hearings with various national, regional and international figures. Its report was expected in the weeks following this meeting.

86. In the area of cross-border security, Rwanda remained concerned about the continued presence of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the recommendations of the joint meetings of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which had met several times in Luanda and had called for the voluntary disarmament process to be completed within three months, starting from 1 October 2014, failing which a military operation of forcible disarmament would begin on 2 January 2015.

87. Given the sluggish pace and limited results of the process, the Rwandan delegation was pessimistic about its success, particularly as the FDLR leadership did not seem to be involved.

88. The recommendations of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and SADC were based on Security Council resolution 2098 (2013) establishing an intervention brigade within the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to eradicate M23 and other negative forces operating in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including FDLR.

89. Lastly, the delegation referred to the Rwandan contribution of peacekeeping troops, mainly in Africa, and the country's mandate on the United Nations Security Council, where Rwanda was working to improve security around the world and in Africa in particular. Rwanda would spare no effort to use that experience for the benefit of Africa.

Sao Tome and Principe

90. The delegation of Sao Tome and Principe reported that, since the last ministerial meeting, the sociopolitical and security situation had remained stable.

91. On the political front, the country had held parliamentary, local and regional elections on 12 October 2014, which had been peaceful and were judged by international observers to have been free and transparent.

92. The elections had resulted in an absolute majority for Acção Democrática Independente, thus allowing the country to break the vicious circle of instability characterized by repeated changes of government.

93. The delegation expressed some concerns about the country's economic difficulties.

Chad

94. In recent years, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, Chad had undertaken an interreligious dialogue and had created a framework for dialogue with political and civil society actors to preserve the peace and stability needed for socioeconomic development.

95. That respite had allowed Chad to accelerate its economic and social development through effective investments in education, health, water power, agriculture, the environment and infrastructure, while pursuing an industrialization policy.

96. Despite its stability, Chad was very concerned about the security situation in some neighbouring countries. Currently, Chad was receiving refugees from Nigeria

on a daily basis, in addition to those from the Central African Republic and the Sudan and Chadian nationals repatriated from Libya and the Central African Republic. The humanitarian situation continued to be a cause of serious concern.

97. Faced with the security challenge caused by the proliferation of weapons in the Sahel as a result of the deteriorating situation in Libya, Chad had become involved in efforts to combat terrorism, Boko Haram and poaching.

98. In collaboration with neighbouring States and the States of the Central African subregion, Chad was participating in efforts to counter terrorist threats in the Sahel and other security threats in Central Africa. It was taking steps to ensure peace and security within its borders.

99. In that connection, a joint commission with the Sudan to control the circulation of small arms had been established, as had a tripartite commission comprising Chad, the Sudan and the Central African Republic to secure their shared borders.

100. The Summit of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, held in N'Djamena in April 2012, had decided to establish a multinational force to protect Lake Chad against security threats.

Recommendations

101. The Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to return to the traditional format of the geopolitical and security review prepared by ECCAS.

102. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea proposed that a presentation on the threat posed by the Ebola virus should be given at the next meeting.

VI. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

103. The ECCAS Secretariat, the representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and the regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa each gave briefings on the topics outlined below.

Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

104. **Status of ratification of the Kinshasa Convention**: The ECCAS Secretariat provided an update on the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, stressing that the main challenge remained ratification itself.

105. Highlighting the challenge presented by the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, scheduled for 24 December 2014, the ECCAS Secretariat recalled that the Arms Trade Treaty and the Kinshasa Convention, both legally binding instruments, would be comprehensively implemented in Central Africa, and called upon States to take the necessary steps in that regard without delay.

106. Given the urgency and in anticipation of that implementation, the Secretariat proposed to help those member States that had not yet established national commissions on small arms and light weapons to do so. Briefings on ensuring consistency with international standards had already taken place in Cameroon, the Congo and Gabon, and would be given in the Central African Republic and Chad in January 2015.

107. **Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa**: Recalling that the Code was not binding, the ECCAS Secretariat explained the difficulties that the organization faced in disseminating the Code, which was valuable primarily in terms of ethics.

108. With regard to the white paper on private security companies in Central Africa, the Secretariat informed the Committee that, owing to the low response rate by national experts to the questionnaire on information gathering, ECCAS experts would again have to visit member States. Four countries had already been visited (Angola, Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the next countries to be visited were Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe. The work was to be completed in 2015.

109. The Secretariat informed the Committee about the various activities in which it had participated, including the African Union Symposium on Victims of Terrorist Acts, held in Algiers on 27 and 28 October 2014. The Symposium, organized with technical assistance from the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, had been intended to engage the African subregions in helping to develop a regional approach to promote and bolster support for the victims of terrorist acts as part of regional counter-terrorism initiatives and strategies.

110. Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/288 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006, and the Protocol to the 1999 Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the Secretariat suggested that the Committee should designate it as the focal point on support for victims of terrorist acts.

111. The Secretariat would designate a counter-terrorism focal point from among its members, and States would advise the Committee of any progress made.

112. With regard to security sector reform, the Secretariat shared with the Committee the results of the joint ECCAS and United Nations mission to the Central African Republic, which had taken place from 19 to 29 May 2014. The many meetings held during that mission had allowed ECCAS to prepare recommendations on reforms for consideration by member States.

113. It also informed the member States of the visit by experts from its Secretariat to disseminate and encourage ownership of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, as recommended by the Committee at its twenty-ninth meeting. The Secretariat would also do its utmost to make the white paper on private security companies in Central Africa available by the end of February 2015.

114. The Secretariat called upon States that had not yet done so to ratify the Kinshasa Convention in order to expedite its entry into force.

115. Seven States members of the Committee, including Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe, had already signed the Arms Trade Treaty, which would enter into force for all signatory States on 24 December 2014.

116. Recalling that the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted by ministers and Heads of delegation of States members of the Committee on 16 March 2011, had been the basis for the involvement of the States members of the Committee and the Secretariat in the

Treaty adoption process, the Secretariat urged member States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.

117. In order to facilitate the Treaty's implementation at the national level, the Secretariat was carrying out a community-based awareness-raising campaign through the civil society organizations that made up the Central African Action Network on Small Arms. It was also providing technical support to law enforcement agents and parliamentarians to deepen understanding of the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty.

118. It was continuing its advocacy with competent national authorities to promote the signature and/or ratification of the Treaty by all States members of the Committee.

119. With regard to the sharing of experiences and best practices in monitoring transfers of conventional weapons, the Secretariat gave a briefing on its participation in a seminar on preventing and combating the trafficking of conventional weapons in Africa organized by the French Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris on 2 and 3 October 2014. That seminar, which had been attended by the African Union, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, SADC, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, INTERPOL and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), had enabled participants to identify several courses of action to control such weapons.

Recommendation

120. The Committee designated the Secretariat as the focal point on support for victims of terrorist acts.

Briefing by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

121. The representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa gave a briefing on the Centre's disarmament efforts in the Central African subregion, focusing on the development of international, regional and subregional instruments and political and legal mechanisms to monitor conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

(a) Small arms and light weapons

122. The representative of the Centre reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Security Council resolution 2117 (1540) on small arms and light weapons, as well as States' participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, in ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and implementation of Security Council resolution 2013 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction.

123. Resolution 2117 (2013), he added, was the first Security Council resolution that specifically addressed the issue of small arms and light weapons and encouraged the establishment or strengthening of subregional cooperation, coordination and information sharing mechanisms.

124. With regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the States members of the Committee were urged to submit their national reports. States had undertaken to report every two years on the implementation of the Programme of Action. Those reports helped, inter alia, to identify States' financial and technical assistance needs, allowing partners and potential donors to address them.

125. In their reports, several States had identified gaps in updating national legislation and administrative procedures and in establishing national commissions. In particular, States had underlined the importance of harmonizing national legislation on small arms and light weapons in the region, improving national stockpile management, setting up national coordinating bodies, and increasing marking activities, as well as keeping adequate records on small arms and light weapons. Several members of the Committee had also noted that the unchecked possession of weapons by civilians and the existence of weapons caches in violation of current legislation required further efforts to secure government stockpiles in order to prevent the misuse of arms.

126. The next biennial meeting would be held in 2016. An open-ended meeting of governmental experts would be held from 1 to 5 June 2015. States had asked the experts to meet in order to consider: (i) the implications of recent developments in small arm and light weapon manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing of such weapons; (ii) practical steps to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping and tracing systems in the light of such developments, including ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of relevant tools and technologies; (iii) the transfer of technology and equipment, as well as capacity-building, in particular training, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

127. With regard to the implementation of International Tracing Instrument, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and various subregional organizations had supported activities by providing marking machines, computer software and training. The Centre had piloted a training programme in March 2014 at its headquarters in Lomé, which, at the request of member States, could be repeated at the national or subregional level, in both English and French.

128. As part of the SaferGuard knowledge management programme, the United Nations had established International Ammunition Technical Guidelines for the safe and secure management of ammunition stockpiles. In April 2014, the Centre had organized a training-of-trainers course for peacekeeping troop-contributing countries on the management of ammunition stockpiles, based on those Technical Guidelines. That training could be repeated at the national and subregional level at the request of member States, in both English and French.

129. The representative of the Centre also recalled that the Centre offered comprehensive firearms management training to the various government agencies

involved in the management of small arms and light weapons, in order to ensure consistency with international small arms control standards.

130. With respect to the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, four of the eleven States parties had deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General. At the preceding meeting of the Committee, one additional State had reported that it had completed the national ratification process. To facilitate implementation, the Centre was currently developing a manual on harmonizing States parties' legislation with the Convention, with the cooperation and financial support of ECCAS. The manual would also take into account the legal obligations of States under other instruments.

131. The Centre was available to work with the member States' focal points on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and urged States that were in a position to do so to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

Recommendations

132. The Advisory Committee reiterated its recommendations regarding the sixth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be held in 2016, and the open-ended meeting of governmental experts, to be held from 1 to 5 June 2015 under the auspices of the United Nations.

133. In that regard, the Committee reaffirmed the principle of holding a preparatory meeting in late 2015 or early 2016 to prepare the Central African countries for the sixth biennial meeting.

134. **Conventional arms**: The representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa added that more systematic participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures would foster greater transparency, build confidence and enhance understanding of the challenges facing Central Africa. In a note verbale sent on 28 February 2014 to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, the Office for Disarmament Affairs had invited countries to submit information to the Register of Conventional Arms and to report their military expenditures. The Centre remained available to provide States with any support they might require.

(b) Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

135. The Arms Trade Treaty would enter into force on 24 December 2014, following the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General. The Treaty had been signed by 122 States, including 7 States of the subregion, and 54 States had deposited their instruments of ratification. The Office for Disarmament Affairs encouraged other States of the subregion to join the signatories and offered its support for the ratification of the Treaty.

136. A series of informal preparatory meetings was being organized in the lead-up to the first Conference of States Parties, to be held between June and December 2015. The meetings would address the commitments undertaken by States parties, including their obligation to submit an initial report to the secretariat of the Treaty on measures undertaken in order to implement it, as well as a first annual report for the preceding calendar year concerning authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms covered under article 2 (1).

137. A financing mechanism known as the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation had been established for the regulation of conventional arms. Again, the Centre remained available to assist member States in developing joint projects for submission under the Facility's 2016 call for funding.

138. The representative of the Centre gave a thorough presentation on the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, reiterating the importance of the Code and reminding member States that the Centre could provide them with training modules that could be tailored to the specific needs of each State. The Centre stood ready to assist them with capacity-building for defence and security forces and with the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

(c) Weapons of mass destruction

139. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, sought to address the challenge posed by the potential proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to and by non-State actors. It recognized that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially in relation to non-State actors, were a threat to international peace and security, and aimed to strengthen the existing non-proliferation, disarmament and counter-terrorism regime. Referring to the legally binding obligations of the treaties to which States were parties, the Security Council urged all States to take effective and appropriate legislative and administrative measures to prevent and combat proliferation. The African continent was just as vulnerable as other regions to trafficking in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

140. The Office for Disarmament Affairs had, its representative noted, actively promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through regional workshops in which several countries of the subregion had participated. One such workshop had been held in Addis Ababa in November 2014 at the initiative of the African Union. In addition, three technical workshops, divided according to language, had been held in March, April and June 2014.

141. The representative of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa thanked Gabon for its help in organizing the workshop for French-speaking countries, held in Libreville, and for providing an expert from its Government for that occasion. He also thanked the Congo for contributing a national expert to the workshop. All three workshops had provided an opportunity for several member States to prepare their draft initial reports.

142. The Office for Disarmament Affairs remained available to facilitate a discussion on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at one of the Committee's future meetings and encouraged States to submit reports on the resolution's implementation to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2004 (2004). That Committee provided technical assistance and capacity-building to States that requested it through their reports.

Implementation of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

143. The United Nations regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa gave a presentation emphasizing the points outlined below.

144. Phase II of the road map, which related to the development of an integrated counter-terrorism and arms control strategy for Central Africa, was based on a series of thematic workshops held in the States of the subregion, which allowed for periodic reporting, at the Committee's ministerial meetings, on the activities of the national counter-terrorism coordinators. The workshops also served to identify mechanisms to implement the priorities of the integrated strategy. Three thematic workshops and a consultative workshop remained to be held:

(a) Workshop on human rights and the prevention of violent extremism, scheduled to be held in Angola in late January 2015);

(b) Workshop on the prevention of money-laundering and financing of terrorism, scheduled to be held in April 2015 in Gabon or another country in lieu of the Central African Republic, the headquarters of the Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa;

(c) Workshop on justice, scheduled to be held in June or September 2015 in Cameroon;

(d) Consultative workshop on strategy and possible follow-up actions, scheduled to be held in November or December 2015 during the Committee's ministerial meeting.

145. The two previous workshops, held in Libreville in January 2014 and Bujumbura in April 2014, had strengthened the capacity of police officers and customs officials in that area and had led to the adoption of a series of measures to address terrorist threats.

146. In accordance with the recommendations of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Committee, a joint mission comprising members of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the United Nations country team based in Cameroon, and members of the regional coordination mechanism for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa had been deployed in the Lake Chad area, which had been identified as the epicentre of the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. Observations on the ground had provided a clearer view of the complexity of Islamist terrorism, an elusive and ever-changing threat that was deeply embedded in the social fabric. The spread of that threat, which had originally been linked to Nigeria's internal geopolitical situation, to neighbouring countries such as Cameroon had apparently been facilitated by porous borders, the ethnic and religious makeup of the communities on either side of those borders, socioeconomic destitution and the psychological weakness of a largely underdeveloped population.

147. The Islamist terrorism of Boko Haram, which posed a multifaceted threat, took the form of serious human rights violations. Its socioeconomic consequences have included a drastic decline in trade flows and customs, an increase in public spending because of the war effort, the closure of schools and health centres and the risk of a humanitarian and health crisis caused by the massive influx of refugees.

148. The effectiveness of efforts to combat Boko Haram would depend on the strategic and operational coordination of the military and security resources conventionally used to curb the spread of Islamist terrorism and of the human security resources required to eliminate that threat by protecting at-risk populations from Islamist proselytism.

Recommendations

149. Taking note of those observations, the Committee encouraged member States to commit themselves to the political endorsement and concrete ownership of the road map being implemented for that purpose.

150. It also recommended that UNOCA, the regional coordination mechanism for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and ECCAS should be mandated to conduct a methodical and comprehensive study of relevant threats in the subregion and, based on their findings, to propose ways of eradicating those threats, for presentation at the fortieth meeting of the Committee.

VII. Maritime piracy and security

Inauguration of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa and implementation of the decisions of the Conference on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

151. The ECCAS General secretariat reported that there had been few developments since the Committee's last meeting, other than the inauguration of the headquarters of CRESMAC in Pointe-Noire, Congo.

152. The Secretariat called on member States to maintain and redouble their current efforts to implement the Gulf of Guinea security strategy.

Recommendations

153. At the suggestion of the Congo, the Committee recommended that ECCAS, in conjunction with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, should create the conditions for a strategic partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the effective implementation of the provisions of IMO resolution A.1069(28) of 29 November 2013 relating to the establishment of an IMO trust fund for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

154. The Committee called on the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to organize a technical meeting on security and control of arms trafficking at sea.

Inauguration of the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea

155. The ECCAS Secretariat was pleased to inform the Committee of the inauguration of the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea by the executive heads of ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission on 11 September 2014, in Yaoundé. The founding documents for the establishment of the Centre, an entity aimed at enhancing cooperation, coordination, sharing and interoperability of resources and established pursuant to a memorandum of understanding concluded by ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission during the Yaoundé Summit of Heads of State and Government on security in the Gulf of Guinea, held on 25 June 2013, had been approved on 5 June 2014.

Recommendation

156. The Committee recommended that security efforts in the Gulf of Guinea should incorporate a land-sea perspective with a view to expanding the agenda of the Interregional Coordination Centre.

VIII. Combating armed groups in Central Africa

157. As recommended at the preceding meeting, a presentation on armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was delivered to the Committee.

158. The presentation was given by the representative of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.

159. UNOCA was mandated to coordinate collective efforts to implement the different components of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, adopted by the Security Council in June 2012. That strategy was supplemented by the African Union's Regional Cooperation Initiative to neutralize the Lord's Resistance Army, comprising the military operations of the African Union Regional Task Force. The two strategies were complementary, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA was working in conjunction with Lieutenant General Jackson Kiprono Tuwei, the African Union Special Envoy for the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army.

160. The Lord's Resistance Army continued to pose a threat to civilians in some parts of the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicated that the number of displaced persons in LRA-affected areas exceeded 160,000, including 30,000 refugees in neighbouring countries.

161. LRA continued to carry out attacks against communities in the eastern part of the Central African Republic. However, the bulk of its troops had moved into the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they continued to pillage and to abduct civilians for the purpose of trafficking elephant ivory from their poaching activities in Garamba National Park, which allowed them to replenish their supplies and purchase weapons.

162. At the same time, serious challenges, including the crises affecting the Central African Republic and South Sudan, continued to hamper the effectiveness of the African Union Regional Task Force.

163. In August and September 2014, UNOCA had dispatched a team to conduct assessment missions in LRA-affected areas in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The missions had allowed the team to gather first-hand information on current LRA activities, including the number of persons affected and the challenges to the implementation of the regional strategy.

164. Moreover, the Head of UNOCA and the African Union Special Envoy had co-chaired the coordination meeting on the LRA issue held in September in Entebbe, Uganda, in which representatives of United Nations entities had participated, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), as

well as representatives of the African Union, non-governmental organizations, and civil society.

165. From 25 November to 5 December 2014, members of UNOCA were participating in a field mission, led by the African Union Special Envoy, to the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda with the aim of informing the Governments of the affected countries of the problems posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and shoring up the political will and cooperation of the countries participating in the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative.

166. Among the most active armed groups other than LRA, FDLR, based primarily in the province of Kivu, was thought to have some 1,400 to 1,800 members, while the strength of the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), active in Beni in North Kivu, was estimated at between 150 and 200. The Forces de résistance patriotiques de l'Ituri, operating in Ituri Province, consisted of approximately 1,000 to 1,500 members. Other armed groups operating in the country, such as the multiple Mai groups, including Nduma Defence of Congo, Lafontaine, Fujo and Yakutumba, as well as Kata Katanga, continued to pose a threat to the local populations. The recent massacres, in October and November 2014, of nearly 200 civilians living in the Beni area, acts attributed to ADF-NALU and other armed groups, were evidence of the reality of that threat.

167. The UNOCA representative described the crucial role played by the military, police and civilian components of MONUSCO, notably in providing logistical and operational support to the armed forces and services of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to neutralize ADF/NALU during Operation Sukola I, carried out in Beni. MONUSCO had likewise supported the voluntary disarmament of FDLR and was considering engaging in a joint military operation with the government forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo if FDLR failed to meet the 2 January 2015 deadline for completing that process.

Recommendations

168. The Committee recommended that the framework for discussions on armed groups should be extended to include all of Africa.

169. The Committee also recommended that consideration should be given to increasing the financial and material resources available to UNOCA in view of the expansion of its activities.

IX. Discussions on the specific theme: Threats to peace and security in Central Africa: the case of Boko Haram

170. As decided by the States, the Committee discussed threats to peace and security in the subregion, in particular those stemming from the acts of the terrorist sect Boko Haram.

171. The UNOCA representative gave an update on the situation before presenting the measures taken to combat that group, after which the participants discussed the issue.

172. The security, humanitarian and human rights situation in the areas under attack by Boko Haram in Cameroon's Far North region had continued to deteriorate. Boko Haram attacks had increased in number and intensity.

173. One of the most visible consequences of the threat posed by Boko Haram was the continued influx of refugees from Nigeria. In recent months, refugee numbers had increased exponentially. In fact, between November 2013 and November 2014, the number of refugees in the camps had increased tenfold.

174. Boko Haram attacks had had a devastating impact on the economy of northern Cameroon, resulting in a sharp rise in commodity prices, destroying livelihoods and fuelling transnational crime and illicit trafficking, including of weapons and ammunition. Discontent among the population, including displaced persons and host communities, coupled with economic difficulties and harsh living conditions; the disintegration of the education system; an increase in youth unemployment; human rights abuses; and the fear of further attacks by Boko Haram could perpetuate the cycle of radicalization and violence.

175. A mission on the impact of Boko Haram in northern Cameroon and the Lake Chad basin had been organized by UNOCA. It had visited Cameroon and Chad in October and November 2014, and had comprised representatives of various institutions, including UNOWA, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, and the Network against Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons in Central Africa..

176. Several meetings of the Lake Chad Basin Commission had been attended by UNOCA. The Commission was considered to be the most appropriate and legitimate institution for the facilitation of regional cooperation among the countries affected by Boko Haram. However, it lacked institutional capacity and political influence.

177. On 7 October 2014, the Presidents of Benin, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, and the Minister of Defence of Cameroon, had met in Niamey to discuss the modalities of joint military action against Boko Haram. They had expressed their intention to step up the fight against the Islamist sect by forming an additional battalion and establishing a command centre.

178. Nevertheless, the commitments made had not been sufficiently translated into concrete achievements. Thus, the command centre of the multinational force they had agreed to establish should have been in place by 20 November. The Heads of State had agreed to establish a working group to ensure the deployment of troops and more intense coalition border patrols, to stem the activities of Boko Haram.

179. In accordance with the decision taken by the member States of the Commission at their Extraordinary Summit in Niamey, held in October, a workshop had been held in Yaoundé from 14 to 18 October to develop an appropriate strategy to fight terrorism in the Lake Chad basin. That workshop had been organized within the framework of the decisions taken at the Paris (17 May), London (12 June), Abuja (3 September) and Niamey (22 and 23 July and 7 October) meetings.

180. The fourth Meeting of Ministers of Defence, Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Security and Intelligence Services of the Commission's member States and Benin had been held in Abuja from 24 to 26 November 2014. UNOWA and UNOCA

had also taken part. The purpose of the meeting had been to develop the legal framework for cross-border military operations against Boko Haram.

181. The Executive Secretariat of the Commission had submitted a draft document for approval by the Heads of State and government.

182. During the discussions, the Executive Secretary of the Commission had expressed a wish to build trust among the member States, explaining that the Commission needed about 8 billion CFA francs to operationalize the multinational force. The experts had discussed the proposed strategy to combat terrorism in the region, creation of the force and the logistical support it should receive, funds to implement the strategy, and the harmonization of international support, including from UNOCA and UNOWA.

183. However, the force had not yet been made operational, nor had all the required support been provided. Close and forthright collaboration among States was needed to stem the Boko Haram threat.

184. At the end of his presentation, the UNOCA representative said that the problem should be considered a direct threat to the national security and territorial integrity of the affected countries; military actions should adopt a broader strategy that would take into consideration the root causes of terrorism, such as issues of human rights, development and good governance, and a more integrated humanitarian response on the part of authorities and national and international partners.

185. The discussions on the threat to peace, security and stability in Central Africa posed by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram served as the basis of a Committee statement (see Annex 1).

Recommendation

186. The Committee recommended that the issue of the threat to peace, security and stability in Central Africa posed by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram should be included on the agenda of the next Summit of Heads of State of ECCAS, with a presentation by the United Nations regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa.

X. Poaching in Central Africa

187. The delegation of Gabon shared with the Committee the latest developments in the fight against poaching, an issue in which it had been deeply involved, such as during the recent session of the General Assembly in September 2014.

188. On the sidelines of that session, the President of Gabon, together with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, had co-hosted a working luncheon on measures to combat poaching and illicit trafficking in protected species, held on 26 September 2014, with the main goal of encouraging the international community to take joint action to better combat the phenomenon. The luncheon had also sought to provide a high-level political platform for renewed efforts to promote robust action by States.

189. The Presidents of Mali, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, had participated in the event.

Several countries, including Belgium, Cameroon, France and Namibia, had been represented at the ministerial level.

190. Most of the speakers had reiterated the demand that the fight against poaching and illicit trafficking in protected species should immediately be adopted as a common goal by the international community, owing to its environmental impacts and the transboundary and criminal nature of that scourge. They had also stressed the importance of harmonizing judicial systems, as well as relevant national and international law, in order simultaneously to reduce both supply and demand, in particular for ivory. Consequently, they had agreed on the need to turn political momentum into an effective resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-ninth session.

191. The President of Gabon had emphasized the need to take into account the concerns of rural people for whom hunting and fishing were sources of income. Hence, he had called for a distinction to be made between such livelihood activities and illegal poaching, and had encouraged a comprehensive approach to anti-poaching efforts that would also take people's needs into account.

Recommendations

192. The Advisory Committee recalled the relevance of the following recommendations to combat poaching and illegal trafficking in wild species, contained in the letter addressed to the Secretary-General by the permanent representatives of Gabon and Germany to the United Nations and dated 28 October 2013 (A/68/553), with the requisite elaboration or justifications:

(a) Appointment of a Special Representative or Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the protection of fauna and flora, with a mandate to mobilize the international community to combat poaching;

(b) Drafting and submission to the General Assembly of a resolution on poaching, highlighting its environmental, economic and security-related consequences;

(c) Convening under United Nations auspices of a high-level world conference on the subject, to be hosted by Gabon;

(d) Establishment of a coordination and communication network for the enforcement of laws to combat poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife in general, and rhinoceroses and elephants in particular;

(e) Strengthening of cross-border cooperation taking advantage of existing international instruments and initiatives pertaining to the protection of endangered species of wild fauna to address criminal activities that facilitate the supply of and demand for products derived from poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife;

(f) Greater support, through ECCAS, for the Central African Protected Area Network, to ensure continued participation by that specialized subregional institution in anti-poaching efforts.

XI. Briefings by bodies with observer status in the Committee

193. Representatives of the various entities in the subregion gave the Committee brief overviews of their mandates and activities to promote peace and stability in Central Africa.

United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

194. The Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa gave a briefing on the activities implemented in the framework of its quadrennial intervention strategy for the period from 2014 to 2017, focusing on five thematic priorities. In 2014, activities had been organized for almost all member States at the national and subregional levels. An exploratory mission had also been conducted in Equatorial Guinea, from 30 October to 7 November 2014, to identify areas for partnerships with the Government.

195. To contribute to the development of a true culture of democracy, the Centre, UNOCA, ECCAS and the African Union had worked towards a peaceful electoral process in Sao Tome and Principe in October 2014. In Cameroon, media professionals had received training in human rights principles related to their coverage of the electoral process.

196. With respect to mainstreaming human rights in development and in the economic sphere, all the member States except Sao Tome and Principe were parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Only Gabon had ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

197. With the support of the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Centre was working to train government representatives, business leaders, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and media professionals on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

198. Finally, Cameroon, Chad, Congo and Gabon had made efforts to meet their reporting obligations with regard to human rights mechanisms. Another great achievement has been the participation of all the countries served by the Centre in the universal periodic review process of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The reports of Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe would be considered in the course of 2015. Furthermore, Burundi had received a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and would receive a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

199. The Regional Representative took the opportunity to call on member States to:

(a) Implement the conventions they had ratified;

(b) Extend a standing invitation to mandate holders under a special procedure of the Human Rights Council;

(c) Strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, to provide them with a legal foundation and adequate human and

financial resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles, to be able to perform their duties to protect and promote human rights.

200. The member States were also called upon to implement the recommendations of the subregional workshop held in Douala, in July, to improve conditions for those held in detention through the application of human rights standards.

201. Discussions on transitional justice processes would be organized in the Central African Republic.

202. Finally, the Regional Representative highlighted the need to mainstream human rights in the electoral processes that would feature in the subregion's political agenda from 2015 to 2018, in order to prevent electoral disputes. To achieve that goal, the States of the subregion were called upon to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and to fully integrate women at all levels.

United Nations Office in Burundi

203. In its resolution 2137 (2014), which extended the mandate of BNUB until 31 December 2014, the Security Council underscored the importance of security sector reform, welcomed Burundi's contribution to and active participation in United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations, and urged all international partners, together with BNUB, to continue supporting Burundi's efforts to professionalize the national security services and the police.

204. In addition, in agreement with the Government of Burundi, a United Nations electoral observation mission would be deployed beginning on 1 January 2015. In that regard, a road map to facilitate peaceful elections had been drawn up by the Government in collaboration with BNUB. Three assessments of the road map had already been conducted.

205. The security situation had remained relatively stable during 2014 despite the disruption caused by the continued existence of small groups of armed bandits, based in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Based on that report, a mechanism for bilateral cooperation between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been established to enhance peace and security along their common border.

206. Concerning the economy, a round table would be hosted by the Government on 11 and 12 December, in close cooperation with the United Nations, to identify post-2015 development priorities.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

207. The representative of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) announced that, upon the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic on 15 September 2014, six battalions belonging to the armies of Central African countries (Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Rwanda) had begun serving as United Nations peacekeepers.

208. In total, the Mission had 7,350 of the 10,000 troops authorized. Regarding the police component, the Mission had 1,103 of the 1,800 officers authorized. The

Mission would be deployed at 83 per cent of its final total by 31 December 2014, and 9 of the 10 police units whose formation had been planned would also join the Mission by that date, to be joined shortly thereafter by the last one.

209. The main priority of the Mission was the deployment of troops and police, as they were essential to implementation of one of the core elements of the mandate, namely the protection of civilians.

210. Most of the MINUSCA civilian component had also been deployed in and around Bangui and in the cities of Bouar, Bossangoa, Kaga Bandoro, Bambari and Bria, where offices had been established. In 2015, offices would be opened in Paoua, Berberati, Ndele, Obo and Bangassou.

211. A nationwide MINUSCA presence in the Central African Republic was vital to the effective and balanced fulfilment of its mandate.

212. In addition to protecting civilians, MINUSCA was in the process of addressing other equally important and mutually reinforcing tasks: improving the security situation, particularly in Bangui; restoring State authority; supporting the process of dialogue and peace; and restoring the rule of law. Indeed, the overall MINUSCA mandate was to bring peace and development to the Central African Republic, together with the Transitional Government.

213. The Bangui forum scheduled for early 2015 would enable the country to address the most complex issues surrounding a very basic theme: "How can we live together? How can we move the country forward, and with it the ideas of peace and sustainable development?" The forum represented nothing short of a first step towards the reconciliation that the country needed.

214. Finally, MINUSCA was working closely with the Transitional Government and all other actors and stakeholders, the mediator, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bathily, the African Union Special Envoy, Mr. Maïga, the members of the Group of Eight (G8), ECCAS, the French Sangaris force and the European Union peacekeeping force.

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

215. The mandate of MONUSCO was based on Security Council resolution 2147 (2014), adopted on 28 March 2014, and focused on three priorities: the protection of civilians, the stabilization of the country, and support for implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. In that same resolution, the Security Council extended the mandate of the Intervention Brigade, established for an initial period of one year pursuant to its resolution 2098 (2013) of March 2013, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice, within the authorized troop ceiling of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel and 1,050 personnel of police units formed to neutralize the armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular former M23 combatants, FDLR and ADF-NALU.

216. The core mandate of MONUSCO was to reduce the threat to civilians posed by Congolese and foreign armed groups and to protect civilians from violence, in particular sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children. MONUSCO also played a role in facilitating and restoring State authority in areas

affected by the conflict, through the establishment of functional, accountable institutions (including the police, the army and the judiciary).

United Nations Development Programme

217. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remained concerned about the direct and indirect impacts of the threats currently affecting the subregion, particularly the crisis in the Central African Republic and the spread of the Boko Haram armed insurrection. To guard against such impacts, States must, in accordance with their governing mandates to protect their people, spend heavily on national security and defence. Unfortunately, that might have an impact on development-related investment.

218. UNDP therefore proposed that the Committee should adopt a recommendation drawing attention to the impact of the current situation on the development of countries directly at risk from the potential spillover of the crisis in the Central African Republic and from the Boko Haram armed insurgents. The country offices stood ready to assist Governments in analysing the impacts of those crises.

219. In order to better coordinate its strategy for supporting and assisting the States concerned, a subregional meeting of resident coordinators and resident representatives of the subregion would be held in Yaoundé in February 2015. The meeting would also be attended by the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region and Head of UNOCA, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic.

220. UNDP was available to the States members of the Committee to help them implement strategies to prevent conflicts and strengthen social cohesion at the local and regional levels.

XII. Report by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on institutional developments in subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms and on the development of strategic partnerships

221. The ECCAS Secretariat informed the Committee that there had been no institutional developments in its subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms or new developments in its strategic partnerships.

222. It nevertheless wished to thank the Government of Gabon for making available new and more functional facilities.

223. The training cycle of the Central African Multinational Force had concluded with the last exercise of the "Loango" programme in October 2014.

XIII. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security and of General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

224. The Committee highlighted the need for each member State to enhance its understanding of those resolutions and, even more importantly, their implementation.

225. In addition, the delegation of Burundi presented in detail the steps taken by its Government to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), namely:

(a) Undertaking of a five-year national action plan (2012-2016) focusing on eight priorities;

(b) Formation of a steering committee responsible for monitoring and carrying out the action plan;

(c) Creation of a national women's forum, which had been operational since 2013;

(d) Imminent establishment of three new care centres for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, to be modelled after the first centre, set up in 2012.

226. The delegation of Burundi also announced the promulgation of a new criminal code which, inter alia, more heavily punished the crime of rape. Furthermore, specific draft legislation on protection against, prevention and suppression of gender-based violence had been finalized by the Government and submitted to Parliament for enactment.

Recommendation

227. The Committee reiterated the recommendations it had made on the basis of the request by the delegation of the Congo for an in-depth evaluation of the situation of women throughout the subregion. To that end, the Committee requested UN-Women to prepare a detailed report on the status of implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security. The report should indicate progress made and any challenges or difficulties encountered by countries and subregional entities. It should also recommend national and regional actions for effectively implementing those resolutions in all Central African countries.

XIV. Climate change

Recommendations

228. The Committee recommended that, at its fortieth meeting, presentations on climate change and its impact on peace and stability in Africa should be given by each State and by the ECCAS Secretariat.

229. The Committee also suggested that the Secretariat should draft a concept note on the topic.

XV. Consideration of the financial situation of the Committee: implementation of the Libreville Declaration by the member States

Recommendation

230. The Committee recommended that the secretariat and the incoming Chair should remind the member States in writing of their financial commitments regarding the implementation of the May 2009 Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration).

XVI. Place and date of the next meeting

231. The Committee decided that the fortieth ministerial meeting would take place in Luanda, during the first half of June 2015. The exact date would be communicated subsequently.

XVII. Other matters

232. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea informed the Committee that it had put forward its candidature for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2018-2019 and requested the support of the member States.

XVIII. Adoption of the report of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting

233. The Committee adopted the present report on 4 December 2014.

XIX. Expression of thanks

The following expression of thanks was read out on behalf of the Committee by the Chadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of the Chadian diaspora, Ms. Isabelle Housna Kassire:

> We, representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, gathered on the occasion of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting, held in Bujumbura, from 1 to 5 December 2014,
>
> – Reaffirm our attachment to the values of peace, security and stability that are so necessary for our respective peoples and for the socioeconomic development of our subregion;
>
> – Commend the efforts made by our countries, individually and collectively, to promote peace, security, stability and development;
>
> – Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, fraternity and mutual trust that has prevailed throughout our proceedings;
>
> – Express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the President of Burundi, Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, and to the Government and people of Burundi for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality we have received during our stay in Burundi.

Annex 1

Bujumbura Declaration on the threat to peace, security and stability in Central Africa posed by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Gathered in Bujumbura, Burundi, on the occasion of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of the Committee,

Concerned about the repeated and escalating attacks by Boko Haram in northern Cameroon,

Bearing in mind the negative economic, social and humanitarian impacts of the activities of this group on Cameroon and Chad,

Bearing in mind also the fact that those countries are forced to allocate substantial resources initially earmarked for their economic and social development towards combating this group,

Considering the risk of destabilization of the entire Central African subregion,

Recognizing the need to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances,

Noting that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Referring to the various United Nations resolutions on terrorism and violent extremism, including resolution 2178 (2014), adopted at the Security Council summit on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, held on 24 September 2014,

Stressing the need for the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Referring to the conclusions of the summit of the African Union Peace and Security Council on terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held on 2 September 2014,

Condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria and northern Cameroon;

Also condemn the unjustifiable ambition of that group to establish an "Islamic caliphate" in the Lake Chad basin;

Strongly support all the initiatives taken by the countries in the region, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, the United Nations and the international community to seek solutions to this problem;

Commend the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad for all the measures they are implementing to combat this armed group;

Encourage the Federal Republic of Nigeria to intensify its military actions in order to secure its border with the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad;

Call on the States members of the Committee to monitor more closely the risk of the spread of terrorism and all forms of extremism in Central Africa;

Urge the international community to increase its support for the fight against this armed group;

Emphasize the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to combating terrorism and armed groups in Central Africa;

Propose that this item be included in the agenda of the next summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States;

Request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to submit this item for consideration by the United Nations Security Council.

DONE at Bujumbura on 4 December 2014

Annex 2

List of participants

Angola

No.	*Name*	*Title*
1	Mr. Francisco Domingos Cardoso	Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of the Interior
2	Ms. Albertina Wilson da Silva C. E. Silva	Not disclosed
3	Mr. Carlos Muandju	Ministry of the Interior
4	Mr. Carlos Muandju	Ministry of the Interior
5	Mr. Antoine Joye	Ministry of the Interior

Burundi

No.	*Name*	*Title*
6	Mr. Laurent Kavakuré	Minister for Foreign Affairs
7	Mr. Zacharie Gahutu	Ambassador, Director-General for International Organizations and Foreign Non-governmental Organizations
8	Mr. Zénon Ndabeneze	Chief, Special Office of the Directorate-General of the National Police of Burundi
9	Mr. Serge Karonkano	Ambassador, Adviser, Directorate-General for International Organizations
10	Ms. Ghislaine Musabirema	Not disclosed
11	Mr. Térence Mbonabuca	Director-General of Territorial Administration
12	Mr. Daniel Kabuto	Communications Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13	Brig. Gen. Sabushimike	Political Adviser, Ministry of Defence and of Veterans' Affairs

Central African Republic

No.	*Name*	*Title*
14	Col. Richard Gatien Hyeaumby-de-Moindi	Inspector-General of the Army, Ministry of Defence
15	Mr. Chérubin Mologbama	Ambassador, Director-General of Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Congo

No.	*Name*	*Title*
16	Ms. Chantal Maryse Itoua-Apoyolo	Deputy Secretary-General, Chief of the Department of Multilateral Affairs
17	Mr. Raymond Serge Balé	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations, New York
18	Mr. Bienvenu Roland Bikoumou	Ambassador-at-large, Director of the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting
19	Mr. Philippe Longonda	Adviser on Strategic Questions
20	Mr. François Nde	Security Adviser, Ministry of the Interior and of Decentralization
21	Mr. Bernard Saba	Adviser for the Armed Forces, the Gendarmerie and Human Resources
22	Mr. Gabriel Angaba	Director of External Security, National Security Council
23	Mr. Massamba	Director of the United Nations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24	Mr. Itoua Vouwala-Tchani	Maritime Security, Safety and Navigation Attaché, Ministry of the Merchant Marine
25	Mr. Michel Kouka-Mapengo	Administrative and Legal Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Democratic Republic of the Congo

No.	*Name*	*Title*
26	Mr. Jean-Smith Kabengele	Political Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
27	Ms. Elizabeth Kasambi Thaussi	Assistant to the Deputy Minister

Gabon

No.	*Name*	*Title*
28	Mr. Michel Régis Onanga Ndiaye	Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations, New York
29	Ms. Bernice Abegue Owono	Chief of the of United Nations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Equatorial Guinea

No.	*Name*	*Title*
30	Mr. Narciso Ntugu Abeso Oyana	Adviser, Office of the President
31	Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba	Ambassador, Permanent representative, Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, New York
32	Mr. Domingo Edu Andeme	Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
33	Mr. Ruslan Hermes Nguema Oyana	Commander of Military Ground Forces, Ministry of Defence
34	Ms. Isabel Avomo Sima	Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations, New York

Rwanda

No.	*Name*	*Title*
35	Mr. Mussa Fazil Harerimana	Minister of Internal Security of Rwanda
36	Mr. Michel Makuza	Director of Multilateral Cooperation
37	Mr. Wilson Rwigamba	Director, Office of the President of the Republic

Sao Tome and Principe

No.	*Name*	*Title*
38	Mr. Urbino José Botelho Gonçalves	Ambassador, Director of Foreign Policy
39	Mr. Alexandre de Sousa Pontes Segundo	Director of the Cabinet of the Chief of General Staff

Chad

No.	*Name*	*Title*
40	Ms. Isabelle Housna Kassire	Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
41	General Mahamat Nil Abakar	Military Coordinator
42	Mr. Abdoul Mahamat Nour	Assistant to the Director of Legal Affairs

Economic Community of Central African States

No.	*Name*	*Title*
43	Mr. Daniel Pascal Elono	Chief, Central African Early Warning Mechanism, ECCAS
44	Mr. Jean-Clair Zue Obame	Electoral Expert

African Union

No.	*Name*	*Title*
45	Mr. Gaoussou Diarra Boubacar	Ambassador, Special Representative of the African Union in Burundi and in the Great Lakes region
46	Mr. Bamba Kassimi	Principal Political Adviser

United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
47	Mr. Agbessi Ahowanou	Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Director of the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa
48	Ms. Dorothée Ndoh	Programme Officer

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
49	Mr. Marco Kalbusch	Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

United Nations Office in Burundi

No.	*Name*	*Title*
50	Mr. Christophe Maganga	Political Affairs Adviser

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

No.	*Name*	*Title*
51	Ms. Barrie Freeman	Director of the Department of Political Affairs

United Nations Development Programme

N.	*Name*	*Title*
52	Mr. Karna Soro	Regional Adviser for peace and development in Central Africa

Special guest

No.	*Name*	*Title*
53	Prof. Wullson Mvomo Ela	Research Officer No. 1, Directorate-General of National Security, Director of. the Research Centre at the International School for Security Forces, regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

No.	*Name*	*Title*
54	Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA
55	Mr. Sherwin Das	Officer-in-charge, Political Affairs Section
56	Mr. John Godonou Dossou	Political Affairs Expert
57	Ms. Nora Benyakoub	Political Affairs Expert
58	Ms. Laure Brachet	Political Affairs Expert, Department of Political Affairs, Africa II Division
59	Ms. Ablavi Ayeh	Administrative Assistant, Political Affairs Section
60	Mr. Bertil Safou	Human Resources Assistant
61	Ms. Axelle Dzikongo	Public Information Assistant